

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
August 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Place: MDOT Auditorium

Commission Members Present:

MS Department of Corrections
MS Department of Information Technology Services
MS Department of Transportation
MS Dept of Public Safety
MS Dept of Public Safety
MS Department of Environmental Quality
MS Department of Homeland Security
MS Supervisors Association
MS National Guard
MS Emergency Management Agency
MS Fire Chiefs' Association
MS Municipal League
MS Sheriffs' Association

Chris Epps
David Litchliter
Willie Huff
Michael Berthay
Stephen Simpson
Keith Harkins
Jay Ledbetter
Joel Yelverton
Gary Ladd
Tom McAlister
Tom Lariviere
Knox Ross
Tim Perkins

Advisory Members Present:

Senator Nickey Browning
Senator Dean Kirby
Representative Ray Rogers
Representative Johnny Stringer

Chairman Chris Epps called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed guests in attendance.

Chairman Epps called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Joel Yelverton made the motion, and it was seconded by Stephen Simpson. The motion passed with none opposed.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Procurement Review Committee. The City of Jackson Police Department (JPD) is requesting 130 mobile data units to complete the deployment of mobile laptops in all JPD patrol cars for a total cost of \$592,682. Mr. Yelverton made the motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Tom Lariviere and passed with none opposed.

Willie Huff reported for the Governance/Interoperability Committee. He complimented the RFP Committee and the Commission as a whole for remaining steadfast with the mandatory P-25 standard requirement for the MSWIN communication system. This requirement allowed Harrison County to purchase P-25 standard based radios that will operate on their MA/Com EDAC non-P-25 system and the MSWIN system. Huff referenced a letter received from Harrison County Emergency Communications District Assistant Director Gil Bailey informing the committee of a recent successful test of the new units on the FEMA system. Harrison County is purchasing more new P-25 devices. Huff advised that other vendors offer P-25 devices, but they must be tested on the system prior to purchase.

The Committee has held and is planning several future meetings to discuss governance issues. Progress is being made, but attendance is urged to gather as much input as possible. Mr. Huff

encouraged all WCC members to attend meetings of the Governance Committee. There are also two counties with immediate interest in the MSWIN system.

Bill Roach gave an update on the MSWIN project. Mr. Roach showed several slides of various stages of construction at different tower sites. These slides showed equipment shelters, antennas, microwave dishes, guy wires, propane tanks, generators, fences around the shelters, concrete slabs, racks of 700 MHz radio equipment, etc. Mr. Roach and several others toured tower locations near Waynesboro, Poplarville, and Hattiesburg last week.

Sixteen of the 18 sites in Phase IA are under construction. Six towers are standing, and there are equipment shelters and 700 MHz equipment at 5 of those sites. Steel is being delivered in August and September for the other sites. By the end of October all Phase IA towers will be constructed. There are 26 sites in Phase IB, and the land has been acquired for all but one of these sites. Six sites have already been acquired for Phase II. Site acquisition is one of the most time consuming and challenging parts of the process due to a multitude of issues: landowners who do not want to sell, environmental matters, airport approach path requirements, etc.

Representative Stringer asked about access roads to the towers to accommodate delivery of propane during an emergency, and Mr. Roach and Mr. Huff responded that access roads would be built for all tower locations. Representative Stringer also asked about using existing ETV towers, and Epps indicated that the vendor has been instructed to use ETV towers when it was feasible to do so. However, the ETV towers are old and have not been suitable due to weight requirements of the new equipment.

Chairman Epps brought up the final adoption of the WCC Rules and Regulations as the next agenda item. He recognized Mr. Litchliter who asked for unanimous consent to add this item to the agenda. Mr. Litchliter made the motion, and Keith Harkins seconded the motion to add this item to the agenda. Mr. Litchliter also asked for final approval of the Rules and Regulations as amended at the last meeting. Tom McAlister made this motion, and Keith Harkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed. The Rules and Regulations will take effect in 30 days.

David Litchliter led a discussion regarding a proposed Open Records Procedure for the WCC and asked that this procedure be approved and filed with the Secretary of the State's Office. Tom Lariviere made the motion, and Tom McAlister seconded the motion. Mr. Yelverton asked about the schedule of fees listed in the document. Mr. Litchliter stated that the rates listed were those used by ITS, and Chairman Epps indicated they were very similar to his agency's charges. Commissioner Simpson asked about third party notification to protect proprietary or confidential information and attorney charges for same. Mr. Litchliter indicated that the vendor must get a court order to protect that information. Mr. Yelverton also asked about the bill passed this past legislative session dealing with open meetings, and Chairman Epps stated that his staff attorney believed the proposed open records procedure complied with that legislation. The motion passed with none opposed.

Mr. Litchliter handed out a report on the monthly expenditures. Total expenses for July were \$5,250,320.20 and income from interest was \$12,864.67. The report indicated a cumulative revenue total of \$17,858,307.50, cumulative expenses total of \$15,849,893.30, and a remaining balance of approximately \$2 million. Mr. Litchliter also stated that the WCC budget for FY2010 was submitted to the Legislative Budget Office last week. Keith Harkins made a motion to

approve payment of the July expenses. Stephen Simpson seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed.

Mr. Litchliter also stated the project needs additional funding and that lease payments on towers will begin next month. The Bond Commission has approved \$10 million of the \$20 million in bond funding authorized by the legislature.

Mr. Litchliter indicated that there had been a lot of local interest in this project. As towers continue to be built across the state, there will be even more interest. Mr. Litchliter thanked the advisory members for their support and funding of this project as it is a great example of a statewide project to benefit both state and local entities.

The next meeting will be September 4, 2008, in the MDOT auditorium at 1:30 PM.

There being no other business, Mr. Huff made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Yelverton seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.